



# Spark Gap

Vol. 35, Issue 10, October 2018 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-five years*

## ***On Our M.A.R.C.:***

Well, seems we went from summer to winter or . Hope everyone is ready for winter because it's here and not much we can do about it.

I would like to thank Steve & Jeannie Brown for hosting the picnic again this year. We had lots of great food and stories to tell. Thanks Steve!

For those that didn't attend the picnic, here are your Officers for the current year: President - Jacki Frederick KI6QOG, Vice President – Bill Jackson KM6CRL, Secretary - Rhonda Curtis WS9H, Treasurer – Ron Schuetz K9THR and Trustee - Chris Frederick KQ9Y.

Please mark Oct 31th for the Goblin patrol. I'm hoping Dave Daily will have more information for us at the meeting. This is a yearly event and the Greenwood Police Department and the Johnson County Sheriff's Department really appreciate our help. And most likely all the car and truck traffic on I-65.

Our speaker this month will be Jack Parker, W8ISH. He will be talking about FT8.

Hope to see you Saturday!

Jacki KI6QOG  
***President***





*Birthdays for the month of October:*

*AF9SE - Steve Ellis  
KC9NJM - Bob Jones  
KN9C - Rudy Richardson  
WV9W - Jim Smith  
KC9ZMV - Clifford Whitrock  
WB7PRF - David Litteral  
KD9FBC - Wilson Low  
KF6EFG - John McGrath*

**South Carolina Amateurs Answer Call for Hurricane Florence Response**

"South Carolina ARES was fully activated," ARRL South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Billy Irwin, K9OH, reported. Irwin coordinated regularly with the state Emergency Management Division. "We had operators serving 12-hour shifts at the EMD and ultimately moved to 24-hour coverage. Two operators were deployed to Berkeley County to assist with shelter operations at the request of the Emergency Coordinator there." "We literally modified plans on the fly to meet the needs of the mission," Irwin added. "Several ARRL Sections offered assistance."

Richland County EC Ronnie Livingston, W4RWL, said volunteers in his county staffed the county EOC and the Red Cross. Operators at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) kept in contact with field volunteers in Marion and Dillon counties after conventional telecommunications failed there.

DEC Earl Dean, W4ESD, reported that ARES had deployed operators coordinated with the active agencies. Horry County EC and ARRL South Carolina Section Public Information Officer (PIO) Gordon Mooneyhan, W4EGM, said radio amateurs set up and organized communication networks to assist local government and emergency agencies, as well as to handle health-and-welfare traffic for affected residents, to let their family members outside the affected area know they were all right.

A week later, Amateur Radio operators were still dealing with Florence's aftermath: Conventional telecommunications were starting to return to normal in some areas, but others faced record-breaking flooding. "Things are back to normal communication status, and demobilization is occurring for the deployed operators," Irwin said on September 19.

ARRL leaders in South Carolina thanked all Amateur Radio operators providing service to their communities during Hurricane Florence, especially to their team of emergency coordinators across the state. They all planned for the worst, hoped for the best, and worked to be safe. -- *summarized from ARRL News reports*

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## **ARRL president suggests that we “re-brand” amateur radio**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

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When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides)), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

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## Universal Radio visit 9-20-2018

Getting ham radio gear through Universal Radio in Ohio may have become easier. While traveling through Columbus, Ohio last month I checked out Universal Radios new location on the NW side of Columbus. Their small showroom and warehouse are in a business complex about a mile off I-270 as you cruise around the NW side of Columbus. The showroom is small but the warehouse has everything an active ham might require. Whether its new or used equipment they seem to have it all.

-w8ish



Show Room



New Radios



Old Radios



# Club picnic 2018

By Jack, W8ISH

Hot temperatures, hot dogs and hot burgers greeted MARC club members for the annual fall picnic. Nearly three dozen hams and their families turned out for the pitch in picnic. The crowd kept Steve Brown N9LC busy at the grill cooking up the main course. This year's pitch in included lots of potato salad, baked beans, green beans, corn casserole, cookies and other deserts. Thanks to Linda Harshbarger-KC9GCH for bringing a variety of condiments including fresh lettuce and onion toppings for the hamburgers.

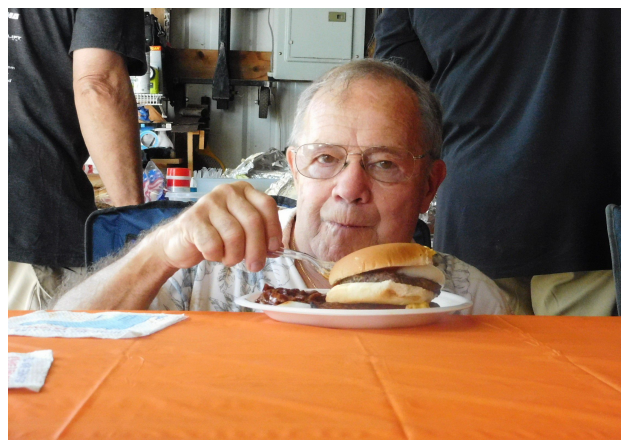
Jeannie Brown, always the perfect hostess, saved the day with a last minute run uptown to pick up fresh hamburger and hot dog buns. Despite the warmer than usual temperatures everyone seemed to enjoy the feast.

Club president Jacki Frederick-KI6QOG, introduced the new MARC officers. Joining her for the 2019 year is Bill Jackson-KM6CRL as vice president, Ron Schuetz-K9THR, moves to treasurer, Rhonda Curtis-WS9H, stays on as secretary and Chris Frederick-KQ9Y, continues as repeater trustee.

A big thank you to Steve and Jeannie Brown for allowing us to invade their ranch for another club picnic.



Steve cooking on the smoking grill



Chris and his burger



Bill & wife Ann



Ron and Noel ragchewing w/o radios

Picnic pics continued:



Scott and wife



Ken and Mike just arrived

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### ARRL Northern Florida Section Seeks Volunteers to Deploy to Hurricane Zone

Northern Florida ARES is seeking volunteers to deploy for up to a week to areas of the state devastated by Hurricane Michael. Serious communication issues remain in the Florida Panhandle in the storm's wake, with the telecommunications infrastructure ravaged and storm victims unable to communicate with family members outside the region. The Florida State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is hoping to recruit eight operators. Section Emergency Coordinator [Karl Martin, KG4HBN](#), said ARES needs as many volunteers as possible.

"They need to be self-sufficient for 7 days (food, water, place to sleep, power, radio, etc.)," he said. "HF is highly recommended. The list of locations needing to be filled continues to grow."

Clay County ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) and Public Information Officer Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, was cited in a news media account that several counties with damage to critical infrastructure remain without any form of communication, with Amateur Radio remaining as the only method of communication between shelters and emergency management. Roberts said a few volunteers deployed from Duval County to assist at shelters in the Panhandle, but more are needed to help relay information and direct resources within affected areas.

"If they need cots, more food, or they're running low on anything, they would pass that information over radio to the state emergency operations center, or the resource centers to get them sent to the shelters," Roberts [told](#) News4JAX in Jacksonville this week.

Volunteers must have been vetted by their local county emergency management agency, have radio equipment and antennas for VHF/UHF (SARnet), HF, and, if possible, HF Winlink capability, and their own shelter. Alternate power sources would be needed as well -- including solar, wind, or



generator, as well as food and water for 7 days. Volunteers should be familiar with message and traffic-handling.

All prospective volunteers should live in Florida. **Do not self-deploy!**

Visit the ARRL [Northern Florida Section website](#) for more information or contact Martin.

..... *ARRL News, October 2018*

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## **Foundations of Amateur Radio #176**

### **Celebrate accomplishments**

Mistakes are common in all aspects of life. Sometimes they are only known to you, other times they are public knowledge and open to ridicule and lambasting. Getting on air for the first time is an accomplishment and often the initial source of mistakes, mishaps and great frustration. Once you've made it on air, the reception to this feat is often underwhelming, people around you don't appear to appreciate the amount of effort you went to in order to key your microphone and for others to be able to hear that.

If you've been in this community for a while it's easy to forget what is involved to make that first contact and to dismiss those around you who've managed to obtain their license, acquire their equipment, install and configure it just so and to actually achieve the first visible milestone in their amateur radio journey, though technically it's audible.

If you've never done this, or if you have but have delegated it to the historical backwaters of your mind, here's an outline of some steps and mistakes along the path of making your first contact.

The first question you're likely to ask is, which radio followed quickly by, from where? Then, if you're like me and many other starting amateurs, you'll have set up your radio for operation on the local 2m or 70cm repeater, you're likely to have some kind of vertical antenna with the microphone gain and squelch set just so and have your radio set for FM. I'm skipping over power, the electrical type, but that in itself can be a feat of endurance.

After hunting around for a list of relevant frequencies, you might also have set up something like CTCSS to ensure that your signal actually gets acknowledged by the repeater.

If that's not enough, you'll also have made your radio use an offset which makes it receive using one frequency and transmit using another.

There's possibly more things you've had to do to make this work and not be subjected to the ire of the local repeater troll who appears to delight in telling you off when they feel you've done something wrong, like leave the roger beep activated or some other infraction.



If you did manage to achieve all these things and actually made your first contact on the repeater, congratulations and welcome to the hobby! Take a breath, you did well.

After a while you're likely to become more familiar with your radio and start exploring the local bands. You might program another repeater into your radio and even experiment with local simplex frequencies.

Each of these activities brings a new experience and new mistakes. For example, not all repeaters use the same offset, or even an offset in the same direction. Not all repeaters have the same CTCSS requirements.

If you're using a simplex frequency, remember to turn off the squelch - don't ask me how I know - so you have a chance to actually hear the other stations, even if you are using FM as the mode.

The process of getting on air as a first time user can be daunting, with many different points of failure along the way.

Ignore the trolls, try your best and ask for help if you get stuck and celebrate your accomplishment when you manage to make a contact.

My point is that achieving all this isn't trivial and it would be helpful if that's remembered from time to time. It's easy to dismiss an achievement made by another, but much more rewarding to celebrate it.

I'm Onno, VK6FLAB

To listen to the podcast, visit the website: <http://podcasts.itmaze.com.au/foundations/> and scroll to the bottom for the latest episode. You can also use your podcast tool of choice and search for my callsign, VK6FLAB, or you can read the book, look for my callsign on your local Amazon store, or visit my author page: <http://amazon.com/author/owh>

If you'd like to participate in discussion about the podcast or about amateur radio, you can visit the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/foundations.itmaze>

Feel free to get in touch directly via email: [onno@itmaze.com.au](mailto:onno@itmaze.com.au), or follow on twitter: @vk6flab (<http://twitter.com/vk6flab/>)

If you'd like to join the weekly net for new and returning amateurs, check out the details at <http://ftroop.vk6.net>, the net runs every week on Saturday, from 00:00 to 01:00 UTC on Echolink, IRLP, AllStar Link and 2m FM via various repeaters

..... *Southgate News, October 2018*



## ***Buy Sell or Trade:***

### **W8ISH EQUIPMENT FOR SALE –**

Alpha Delta “No Trap” Multi-band dipole. 80-10- meters. No power limits. 82 foot long.

Like New. Asking \$75.00.

Cushcraft A432-20T UHF crosspole Yagi antenna. It has 14 Elements for UHF for satellite or other UHF high gain needs. Asking \$50.00

Alliance heavy duty antenna rotor with 75 feet of 4-pin control cable. Asking \$60.00

For Info call Jack, W8ISH at 317-881-0817

### **Entire HF Station For Sale –**

Long time HAM is selling all of his HF station including tower as one package.

Please call: Ed at 317-885-3510 for details.

## **UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS**

**10/20/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.**

**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**11/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.**

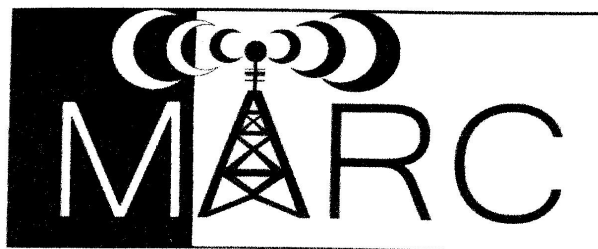
**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**12/15/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.**

**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**

**01/19/2019 -- 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.**

**Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.**





## MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

### WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/  
146.235 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

### Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG  
Vice President: Bill Jackson – KM6CRL  
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H  
Treasurer: Ron Scheutz – K9THR  
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

### WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/  
448.525 MHz  
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS  
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

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46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

*Please send your articles to my email: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3rd of the month*



*Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.*